

Case Study

Al Fresco Oasis

A whole-house renovation creates new outdoor “rooms”

A nondescript house and a large, under-utilized property provided jumping off points for the dramatic outdoor transformation of a traditional Potomac, Maryland, home by BOWA Builders, Inc. “We wanted to warm the house up,” says BOWA principal Steve Kirstein. “We basically stripped out every inch and redid all the finishes in wood. We also expanded the house and made it more livable. And we added a huge outdoor component.”

The residents wanted to be able to cook and entertain outdoors all year round, so BOWA added a screened porch, a covered area with an outdoor kitchen and an upstairs patio. They also installed a pool and a fire pit. Indoor/outdoor televisions in the covered areas add to the entertainment options. “We fit a lot of components in a tight area,” says Kirstein. “We used every inch to incorporate all of the design elements.”

ARCHITECTURE: Kramer Architects, Bethesda, Maryland. DESIGN/BUILD: BOWA Builders, Inc., McLean and Middleburg, Virginia. INTERIOR DESIGN: Sharon Kleinman, Transitions, Potomac, Maryland. POOL & HARDSCAPE: Lewis Aquatech, Chantilly, Virginia. PHOTOGRAPHY: Bob Narod.



Trade Secrets

Steve Kirstein on
PLANNING A REMODEL

- Start planning early and use a professional to help you navigate the ever-changing government regulations and permit processes.
- Ensure that your contractor has had success with projects similar to your own in complexity and magnitude. Look for special areas of expertise, such as green remodeling.
- Check a contractor's references and visit recently completed projects.
- Insist on a detailed production schedule and a full-time onsite project supervisor.
- Ask the contractor for ways to increase your home's value, such as investing in green technologies that will pay off over time.
- Consult an architect during the design phase. A well-planned project delivers a superior result. Additionally, an interior designer can help to drive the overall look and feel of the space.
- Make sure you understand exactly what warranties your builder will offer after the completion of the project.



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